

COMMENT/ARGUMENT

Claims 1-11 have been withdrawn, claims 12-22 remain in the case.

As previously iterated, the prior art techniques universally require two way transmission wherein a handshake is required to convey the data, and wherein the data is compiled over time and prepared for selective transmission at the origin for reception by the user, generally at the request of the recipient, and after the transmission is complete, receipt of the transmission is acknowledged prior to termination.

Even where the prior art may reference "one way" in some capacity, such a reference is with regard to the conveyance of certain data as a component in a sequence of transactions, and not a reference of the means of communication, which as shown requires at the very least a handshake to establish and terminate communication, which in and of itself is two way in its operation as previously discussed. Such two way operation is substantially more complex and costly to implement than a pure monodirectional data stream, although a fully monodirectional conveyance of data has its own problems.

In a pure monodirectional transmission from a transmitter to a receiver (as in the present case), the transmitter in effect transmits blind, that is, the transmitter has have no capacity to discern whether the transmission has been received.

In the present invention, the claims have been amended to emphasize that the present invention provides a one-way RF communication from the vending machine(s) to a predesignated reception area in such a manner as to provide continuously updated data streams for each machine, such that said data streams are conveyed to said designated reception area in approximate real time

even where the transmission is "blind".

This is accomplished by continuously repeating over time the steps of:

- a) polling said machine, compiling sales and cash flow data, providing a data stream;
- b) repeatedly transmitting said data stream, **utilizing monodirectional RF transmission only**, providing a continuous transmission within a reception area;

Thus, the predesignated reception area has beamed to it a continuously data stream which can be received at any time the moment service vehicle is in the reception area, said received data stream updated in approximate real time, so that the operator can be assured that the received data is accurate at the time of reception.

As previously discussed, the present invention does not require subscription fees, costly equipment, or even an FCC license, providing a system which is substantially less expensive to initiate and maintain than prior art systems.

Further, as indicated in Claim 12, the present invention provides a system which utilizes a portable computer configured to receive the data from the receiver at the service vehicle, compile same, and communicate to the operator the relevant data to pull the inventory at the service vehicle. The portable computer is then utilized by the operator during the process of servicing the vending machines as a means to locate and provide the optimal order of servicing the machines based upon location and the inventory requirements. Finally, the portable computer is utilized to "balance out" the vending machine data at the vending machine location during the service process, which adjusted vending machine data is then conveyed back to the base office to provide the most accurate data available on the machines. This partnering of a portable computer with the above process is likewise unique and not contemplated in the cited prior art.

Also as discussed, the claims set forth a specific protocol to deal with transactions which occurred during the interval following receipt of the vending data but before servicing of the machines. These steps, if followed, allow the user to compensate for these changes in inventory and cash box, and provide an adjusted data which can ultimately be conveyed, for example via the portable computer, to the base office.

The above steps (as well as the other claims) were developed to compensate for the difficulties in dealing with a purely one way, "blind" transfer of data from the transmitter to the reception area, and is not contemplated, suggested, or otherwise taught, alone or in combination by the cited prior art. Yes, the prior art does anticipate use of RF to convey vending machine data, but this has been acknowledged even in the application as originally filed. What sets the present invention apart from the prior art is the ability to provide an accurate and highly efficient system for servicing vending machines utilizing the monodirectional transmission (only) via a unique, defined series of important steps which compensate for the difficulties of a monodirectional system and which, and which if not followed, would result in an unworkable system. The invention is thus much more than the simple one way transmission of data.

In combination, it is believed that the claimed method of the present invention provides a unique, innovative and accurate system for servicing vending machine(s) from a service vehicle in a manner which requires much less equipment investment than prior art systems, and with no subscription or service plan requirements for conveying the data.

The Examiner again cites Varga as anticipating "monodirectional RF transmission only". However, paragraph 0048 again references a "network radio modem" earlier referenced in paragraph 0039, which again is in fact not a one-way communication in the manner taught and claimed in the

present application. As previously discussed, as Varga references a "network radio modem" as the means of conveying the "one way" data, it is no different than the previously cited Schwartzendruber, which likewise utilized a modem, and which likewise was not in fact a one-way channel of communications as referenced when applicant claims a "monodirectional data transmission".¹ Thus, while Varga may utilize the term "one way" in the specification, there is in fact no enablement of a truly "one way" system which would allow one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the invention without undue experimentation, which is the standard which must be applied.

Unlike Sedam, Beard or Varga, the mono-directional transmission technique detailed in the claims of the present invention, combined with the other steps enumerated in the method claims, teaches a system wherein the transmitter has been configured to in effect transmit "blind" (i.e., with no information or guidance as to status of the receiver), in a pure monodirectional transmission from a transmitter to a receiver, the transmitter in effect transmits blind, that is, the transmitter has have no capacity to discern whether the transmission has been received.

In the present invention, the claims have been amended to emphasize that the present invention provides a one-way RF communication from the vending machine(s) to a predesignated reception area in such a manner as to provide continuously updated data streams for each machine, such that said data streams are conveyed to said designated reception area in approximate real time even where the transmission is "blind".

As previously indicated, the present invention is able to accomplish the technique of blindly transmitting via monodirectional RF data stream by continuously repeating the steps of:

- a) polling each vending machine, compiling sales and cash flow data, so as to provide a data

¹See pages 9-13 of Response in the present case dated 2/20/2006.

stream;

b) repeatedly transmitting said data stream, **utilizing monodirectional RF transmission only**, providing a transmission within a reception area;

The above is accomplished so as to beam (or transmit) to a predesignated reception area a **data stream which is continuously present in the reception area and thus can be received at any time the moment service vehicle is in the reception area, and said received data stream is updated in approximate real time**, so that the operator can be assured that the received data is accurate at the time of reception.

Conversely, Sedam, Varga, Beard et al, all require feedback in some form from the receiver, either in the form of a transceiver, modem, or the like to function. While such an approach allows for transmission of data only when requested, as well as verification of receipt, the requisite equipment, complexity and cost is greatly increased when compared to the present invention.

As previously discussed, one could not simply cut off one channel of the bi-directional communications of Sedam, Beard, or Varga et al and indicate that they would work the same as the present invention, or otherwise contemplate the present invention. Such is clearly not the case. As discussed above, there are several steps in the present invention not present or discussed in the cited prior art. The present invention not only relates to a single channel communication path from the vending machine(s) to the service vehicle only, the invention **further include specific methodology as set forth in the claims** and iterated above which is not contemplate or suggested, alone or in combination, by the cited prior art.

It is reiterated that in the earlier filings, the applicant has provided detailed

declarations² of non-obvious by credible experts in the industry (including Mr. Tim Sanford³, editor-in-chief of the nationally recognized trade publication VENDING TIMES) relating to the inventive claimed features of the present system, and the prior art has clearly failed to teach or anticipate the combination of the claims as set forth in the present invention, for reasons discussed above.

Lastly, as previously indicated, “the Federal Circuit has made it very clear that secondary considerations must be considered when they are present, and are given equal weight to the primary consideration. WL Gore & Assoc v. Garlock, Inc., 721 F2d 1540, 1555, 220 USPQ 303, 314 (Fed Cir 1983) cert denied 469 US 851 (1984). Not only has there been presented declarations of non-obviousness from experts, but there has been a clear showing of commercial success, and detailed declarations establishing the nexus between the commercial success and the invention, which must be given serious consideration. Demaco Corp v F Von Langsdorff Licensing Ltd 851 F2d at 1392, 7 USPQ2 at 126 (Fed Cir 1988), cert den 488 US 956 (1988).

Further, it is clear that the prior art has not contemplated the one-way system of the present invention, which again is more than simply “blind” transmission of data, but rather the complete protocol wherein there are multiple steps to compensate for the shortcomings of having to deal with a pure one way transmission of data, yet provide accurate and timely information for servicing and reporting to the base office. Such is the essence of the present invention which is not contemplated by the cited prior art.

Accordingly, the claims are deserving of patent protection, and same is respectfully

² It is respectfully reiterated that these declarations cannot be ignored, but must be overcome by the Examiner with clearly relevant prior art teachings which on their face anticipate the claimed invention, with a 1) motivation to combine; and an 2) expectation of success, neither of which has been shown with the references cited.

³ See 1.312 Affidavit Dated 27 September 2004, filed in the present case 29 September 2004.

requested.

As earlier indicated, in order for a claim to be obvious under the prior art under 103, there must have been some explicit or implicit suggestion or motivation in the prior art to combine, substitute or otherwise modify the prior art in a way to produce the claimed invention. The “differences between the subject matter to be patented and the prior art” must be such as to render the “subject matter as a whole” obvious. As earlier indicated, it is inappropriate to use hindsight guided by the applicants disclosure. In the present case, the Examiner admits the invention of applicant is novel, that the product under the invention has “strong evidence” of commercial success.

Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp v. Phillip Morris, Inc 229 F3d 1120, 56 USPQ2d 1456 (fed Cir 2000), reminds us that a showing of obviousness requires a motivation or suggestion to combine or modify prior art references, coupled with a reasonable expectation of success, and that the initial burden is on the examiner to make a rebuttable prima facie case of obviousness based upon the prior art. In re Rinehart 531 F2d 1048, 189 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1976).

Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that the applicant for a patent has no burden to show proof of non-obviousness until a prima facie case has been made by the examiner. Neither Sedam, Beard, nor Varga, alone or in combination, show or anticipate the claimed invention, nor has there a showing of motivation or suggestion of combination of these references to teach the invention as claimed in the present application, which contemplates a much different system, requiring different equipment and technique than the prior art.”

Thus, on reconsideration, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims should be allowed as being patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103.

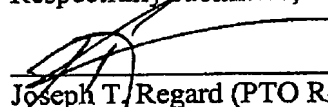
If additional issues remain, and the Examiner is of the opinion that same could be

resolved by telephone amendment, the undersigned respectfully requests same at (985) 845-0000.

Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance

Applicant has amended the specification and claims of the present application so as to provide a proper, definite and novel structure which is also believed to be unobvious. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the application is still not in full condition for allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to MPEP Section 707.03(d) and 707.07(j), so that the undersigned can place the application in allowable condition as soon as possible, and without the need for further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,



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